

Serial No.: 09/679,767

Remarks

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application.

New claims 12-33 have been added.

New claims 12-22 generally correspond to originally-filed claims 1-11, except they specifically recite a roll of single-ply, throughdried tissues.

New claims 23-33 generally correspond to originally-filed claims 1-11, except they specifically recite a roll of single-ply, uncreped throughdried tissues.

Directing attention to the grounds for rejection, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,904,812 to Salman in view of U.S. 5,494,554 to Edwards. It is stated that Salman teaches a roll of bath tissue having the same properties claimed by Applicants except for having a Void Volume of 8.0 grams per gram of tissue or greater. Edwards is cited for its teaching of a base sheet having a Void Volume of 8.0 or greater. It is suggested that it would be obvious to provide a base sheet having a Void Volume of 8.0 or greater, as taught by Edwards, in the tissue of Salman in order to provide softer wet-pressed tissues with a lesser tendency to lint.

However, Salman does not teach the properties of the Applicants' basesheet as set forth in the rejection. In particular Salman does not teach the property of 7-11% geometric mean stretch at column 5, lines 1-15 as cited in the Office Action. Instead, Salmon discloses tensile strength values, but not stretch values. Therefore, on its face the rejection based on the combined teachings of Salman does not render Applicants' claims obvious.

In addition, with regard to the property of caliper, the Examiner is correct that Salman teaches a caliper range of 0.006 to 0.009 inches. However, this range is for what is referred to by Salman as the "post calendering caliper". After calendering, Salman teaches to emboss the sheet to provide an embossing pattern with high definition. One of ordinary skill in the art would expect the resulting caliper, after embossing, to be increased substantially. Hence it is unlikely that the final sheet caliper, as found on the roll product, would still be about 0.01 inch or less as claimed.

For both of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1-11 is not proper.

New claims 12-22 are patentable over the cited references for the additional reason that they refer to a roll of single-ply, throughdried tissue. The secondary reference, Edwards, pertains to creped wet-pressed tissues. It is not obvious that the properties of a wet-pressed tissue could

Serial No.: 09/679,767

simply be incorporated into a throughdried tissue as suggested since the methods of making the two base sheets is so different.

New claims 23-33 are patentable over the cited references for the additional reason that they refer to a roll of single-ply, uncreped throughdried tissue. The claimed combination of properties is not obvious for a roll of uncreped throughdried tissue.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

I, Judy Garot, hereby certify that on September 6, 2002 this document is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

By: Judy Garot

Judy Garot